



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

that in something over 1000 cases of boys of the average age of 18 years passing through the court from 13 to 26 per cent in different groups arranged according to intelligence were found to be suffering from dementia praecox, the highest percentage being in the group of average intelligence. This percentage is astonishing, especially in view of Dr. Healy's finding, in the Juvenile Psychopathic Institute in the same city, not more than 25 cases of dementia praecox in 1000 cases or 2½ per cent. This is adverted to as illustrating the fact that when we have collected our data we still have the question of interpretation which is even more important if we are to arrive at correct conclusions. By all means let us have our laboratories and collect all the data we can, but let us not be hasty in drawing conclusions until we are sure we fully understand all the factors involved.

EDWARD LINDSEY.

STATE CRIMINOLOGIST IN ILLINOIS

The State of Illinois, let it be here recorded, is the first state in the Union to create, by legislative enactment, the position of State Criminologist. Under the new Consolidation Act, which provides a Department of Public Welfare, to have charge of all correctional and charitable institutions of the state, the Criminologist is named as one of the officials.

It will apparently be the duty of this new official, who is granted a salary of \$5,000, to organize his department as a Bureau of the Department of Public Welfare; to call to his aid such assistants as he may need; to formulate a program of action; to promulgate the principles for which the new office shall stand; to secure public co-operation in his activities; and in general to blaze a trail in a field heretofore discussed but as yet uncharted and untraversed.

Singularly enough, a striking forecast of the Criminologist's work, or a goodly portion of it, is set forth in the Parole Law of Illinois, adopted nearly twenty years ago. After stating that when any prisoner is committed to serve his sentence, and a record is taken of his name, nativity, nationality, offense committed, etc., a further provision has heretofore remained obscure and unfulfilled. The text of the law adds that the records shall contain: "such other facts as can be ascertained of parentage, education, occupation and early social influences as seem to indicate the constitutional and acquired defects and tendencies of the prisoner, and based upon these, an

estimate of the present condition of the prisoner, and the best probable plan of treatment."

As a matter of fact, these provisions of the law have been a dead letter, or at least observed in a most perfunctory manner. Such information as has been secured, has been chiefly from the statements of the men themselves; not from any thorough or scientific investigation into the family and personal history of the prisoner.

Yet there is here contained an important part of the program of work for the State Criminologist. Indeed, here is perhaps the first, if not the most significant part of his undertaking, since an intelligent following out of these provisions of the law will necessarily lead him back into the more fundamental study of defendants in the courts, with the view to their better classification and treatment.

The success of this pioneer field depends entirely upon the man chosen to fill it; upon his ability to comprehend its immense possibilities, and to carry them into effect. That he should have both thorough training and practical experience in dealing with the crime problem goes without saying. He should have some aptitude for research, while not being primarily occupied in academic theorizing about the criminal. The position calls for familiarity with present processes of dealing with offenders from the human rather than the legal standpoint. He must have well defined standards derived from wide observation of the best methods applied in all states and all countries. He will need to exercise careful discrimination in judging policies and be able to put them to the test of scientific soundness. He must not be carried away by fads or yield to the suggestions of sentiment, or the adoption of superficial measures, usually exploded experiments of the past, in dealing with offenders.

At the same time this new Criminologist, it has been suggested, "should have some genius for originating and popularizing new measures—be the statesman of the new era in handling crime in Illinois."

The social and civic side of the crime problem will doubtless have a prominent place in this new department. The control of crime from the legal standpoint has already been overworked, besides the machinery of the courts and the Superintendent of Pardons and Paroles will meet all necessities in this regard. The social factors, both in the causes and cure of crime, on the other hand, have only fairly begun to be seriously considered.

To a Criminologist with a vision to see the important bearings of the social factors, there will be wide opportunity to secure the co-operation of many agencies heretofore unused or apathetic in deal-

ing with the offender. Many resources are at hand to the leader who shall discover and utilize them. The individual citizen, indifferent until now; social workers who have awaited direction in a comprehensive scheme of action; employers and industrial agencies, willing but uncertain as to whom and how to help the weak and wavering to the best advantage, all may find new hope and inspiration from this center of wise counsel.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of this department will doubtless rest upon the Criminologist's ability to secure the co-operation of the Judges. The preventive aspects of his service to the state will be in proportion to the response of the Judges and their willingness to see the extra-legal factors that enter into every case before them. The sentence they prescribe will be with an understanding of the physical, mental and moral limitations of the defendant, if they shall come to understand the modern conception of the individualization of treatment for the offender. The incumbent of the position should be given every facility for constructive work by public officials and the courts, and the cordial support of all interested citizens, to the end that Illinois' new enterprise in the field of penology may serve as a worthy example to be emulated by many other states.

F. EMORY LYON.

ERRATUM

In the published report of the Institute Committee on Insanity and Criminal Responsibility we omitted to say that the bill relative to the criminal responsibility of the insane was approved by the last annual meeting of the Institute. Sections 1, 3 and 4 of the expert testimony bill were approved independently of the other two sections. The entire expert testimony bill had been approved at the previous annual meeting.

ROBERT H. GAULT.